

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

August 2020	Georgia State University , Atlanta, GA Ph.D., Communication Emphasis: Critical Rhetoric, Qualitative Methods, Critical Race Theory, Space and Place, Aesthetics Dissertation: Displacing the “Black Mecca”: Romanticizing or Witnessing African American Historical Trajectories in the Case of the Atlanta BeltLine Committee: Dr. Patricia G. Davis (Chair), Dr. James Darsey, Dr. Holley Wilkin, Dr. Jacqueline Royster
December 2013	University of Florida , Gainesville, FL Master of Business Administration
May 2010	University of Florida , Gainesville, FL Bachelor of Science in Journalism
May 2010	University of Florida , 2010 Minor Certificate: African American Studies
Certifications	
2015 – Present	Project Management Professional (PMP), Project Management Institute
2017	Teaching English as a Second Language (TESOL), International Open Academy

RESEARCH SPECIALIZATIONS

African American Rhetoric	Public Memory and History
Black Aesthetics	Rhetorical Methods
Black Feminist Rhetoric	Qualitative Methods
Critical/Cultural Studies	Space and Place / Black Geography
Digital and Social Media	Visual Communication

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Oglethorpe University

Courses:

Introduction to Communication Research Methods (COM 105)
Public Speaking (COM110)
Introduction to Media Studies (COM 120)
Communication Theory (COM101)
Social Media Theory and Practice (COM330)
Introduction to African American Studies (AAS100)
Space, Place, and Public Memory (COM/ART/WGS 460)
Human Nature and the Social Order (COR201)
Persuasion and Social Movements (COM 480)
African American Discourses and Criticism (COM/AAS 340)

Feminist Discourses and Criticism (COM/WGS 350)
Gender, Culture, and Communication (COM 280)
First Year Seminar

Georgia State University

Courses Taught:

Visual Communication (JOUR/SCOM4500)
Public Speaking (SCOM1500)
Persuasion – Critical Thinking through Writing (SCOM3250)
Media, Culture & Society (SCOM2050)
Introduction to Human Communication (SCOM1000)

Courses Assisted:

Rhetorical Theory and Criticism (SCOM4450) (Dr. James Darsey)

University of Florida

Courses Assisted:

Mentoring-at-Risk-Youth, University of Florida (Dr. Stephanie Evans)

Other Teaching

Writing Tutor (K-8th grade)
English as Second Language Teacher

Pedagogy Training

2016 Communication Pedagogy Seminar, Georgia State University

PUBLICATIONS

Books

“Ghost of Atlanta: Cultural Gentrification of the Black Mecca.” Available October 15, 2024 (University Press of Mississippi).

Gittens, Rhana A. 2014. *Perfectly Loved: Knowing Love on God’s Terms*. Nyree Press

Peer Reviewed Articles

Gittens, R. A. (2018). “What If I Am a Woman?”: Black Feminist Rhetorical Strategies of Intersectional Identification and Resistance in Maria Stewart’s Texts. *Southern Communication Journal*, 83(4), 1–12. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1041794X.2018.1505939>

Handley, D.G., Gallagher, V., DeVasto, D., Mridula, M. & Gittens, R.A. (2020). “Unearthing deep roots: Tapping rhetoric’s generative power for community and urban development projects,” *The Review of Communication*, 20(2), 135-143. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15358593.2020.1737194>

Gittens, R.A. (2021) “Atlanta’s Pink Trap House: Reimagining the Black Public Sphere as an Aesthetic Community,” *Theory and Events Journal*.

Non-Refereed Articles

Gittens, R.A. “Dave Chappelle, Alternative Facts, and the Reinforcement of Racist Ideas.” *InMediaRes* (February 5, 2017) <http://mediacommons.org/imr/2017/02/05/dave-chappelle-alternative-facts-and-reinforcement-racist-ideas>

Gittens, R.A. “The Lost Black History of Midtown Atlanta and a Photoshoot.” *RhanaGittens.com*

(June 7, 2017) <https://www.rhanagittens.com/post/the-lost-black-history-of-midtown-atlanta-and-a-photoshoot>

Gittens, R.A. "I Had to Make Sure He was Dead." *RhanaGittens.com* (April 16, 2017)
<https://www.rhanagittens.com/post/i-had-to-make-sure-he-was-dead>

Research Assistant

Acknowledged as assistant to the following publication:

Williams, A. E. (2018) "Exploring the utility of Academia.edu: a SWOT analysis." *Information and Learning Science*, 1119(11), 662-666, <https://doi.org/10.1108/ILS-09-2018-0094>

PRESENTATIONS

Conference Paper Presentations

- 2023 "Digital Gentrification of Black Twitter: The Case of Elon Musk and #RIPBlackTwitter" 2023 National Communication Association Conference (November 2023). National Harbor, MD
- "Cultural Gentrification of the Civil Rights Movement: Evaluating the Romantic Lyrics over a Blue Beat in Atlanta's Public Space." 2023 National Council for Black Studies Conference (March 2023). Gainesville, FL
- 2021 "Calling Out 'Jim Crow 2.0': Eloquent Rage as Black Feminist Rhetorical Response to White Rage." 2021 National Communication Association 107th Annual Convention (November 2021). Seattle, WA
- 2019 "Stacey Abrams and Afrofuturist Aesthetic Space: Wakanda Forever Trope as a Black Symbolic Response to Denied Place." 2019 National Communication Association 105th Annual Convention (November 2019). Baltimore, MD
- "Atlanta's Pink Trap House: Reimagining the Black Public Sphere as an Aesthetic Community." 2018 National Communication Association 105th Annual Convention (November 2018). Salt Lake City, UT.
- 2018 "Ellisonian Rhetoric: A Postcolonial Theory of Symbolic Action." 2018 Rhetoric Society of America Conference (May 2018). Minneapolis, MN
- "<Property>, "Citizenship", and the Political Sphere: Ideographs Manufacturing Consent for White Racial Domination of Atlanta." National Council for Black Studies Conference 2018 (March 2018). Atlanta, GA
- 2017 "What if I Am a Woman?" Black Feminist Rhetorical Strategies for Identity and Resistance in Maria W. Stewart's Texts. National Communication Association 103rd Annual Convention (November 2017). Dallas, TX.
- "The Rhetorical 'Possibilities' of the Activist Media Ecology and the Redesign of 'Timeliness' and Appropriateness'." 18th Annual Media Ecology Association Convention (June 2017). Moraga, CA.
- "A Pedagogy of Ethics in a Pluralistic Classroom. Annual Conference on Scholarly Teaching" (May 2017). Georgia State University. Atlanta, GA

“Communism, the Clergy, and the Civil Rights Movement: The Clergies Use of America’s 1950’s Foreign Policy to Garner Membership to the Civil Rights Movement.” 41st Annual National Council of Black Studies Conference (March 2017). Houston, TX

2010 “Black Girls in the Digital Divide: Limited Access to the Internet and Its Effect on Adolescent African-American Females.” 34th Annual National Council of Black Studies (March 2010). New Orleans, LA.

Panels Organized and Chaired

2021 Invited Panel Participant, “Blue Georgia on My Mind: Discussing the 2020 Georgia Senate Elections.” Panel. 2021 National Communication Association 107th Annual Convention (November 2021). Seattle, WA

2019 Invited Panel Participant, “Surviving the Discipline’s Constraints: Multiplicity, Meaning, and Mentorship Under Structural Oppression.” Panel. 2019 National Communication Association 105th Annual Convention (November 2019). Baltimore, MD

Invited Panel Chair, “The Spirit that Would Not Die, 1865-2015.” Panel Chair. 104th Annual Meeting and Conference for the Study of African American Life and History. (October 2019). Charleston, SC

2018 Panel Organizer “*Playing with Black Space: Creating Black Communities through Digital Counter-Spaces*.” Panel. 2018 National Communication Association 104th Annual Convention (November 2018). Salt Lake City, UT.

Invited Talks

2023 Gentrification in Atlanta Panelist, Movie Screening: GSUTV – Special Edition: Beneath the Skyline: City at the Crossroads, Georgia State University, February 24, 2023

Black History Month Movie Screening Panelist, Movie Screening: *Till*, Oglethorpe University, February 21, 2023

Juneteenth Lecturer, Oglethorpe University, June 15, 2023

2019 Blandtown Oral History Panelist, The Atlanta Preservation Center 2019 Phoenix Flies: A Celebration of Atlanta’s Historic Sites, Atlanta, GA, March 10, 2019

2018 Blandtown Oral History Panelist, The Atlanta Preservation Center 2019 Phoenix Flies: A Celebration of Atlanta’s Historic Sites, Atlanta, GA, March 10, 2018

Popular Press and Public Scholarship

2024 Podcast Interview, “Blandtown,” *Archive Atlanta Podcast* directed by Victoria Lemos

2023 Writer of Historical Markers, Blandtown Neighborhood, Sponsor: Longacre Partners

2023 Contributor in the documentary, “GSUTV- Special Edition: Beneath the Skyline: City at the Crossroads,” Director: Mark Lannaman, YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e6QnkqQEww8>

2021 Contributor in Webseries, “Blandtown Conversations with Gregor Turk and Rhana Gittens,”
Director: Gregor Turk, YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4wklfvllL60>

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2023 Strategic Initiative Grant. Oglethorpe University [Programming Grant for First Generation Student Conference, \$10,000]

2020 Provost’s Dissertation Fellowship. Georgia State University [Tuition waiver, \$12,000]

2019 Award for Outstanding Achievement in Graduate Studies. Department of Communication Georgia State University

2018-19 Graduate Assistantship, Writing Across the Curriculum Consultant, 2018-2019 [Tuition waiver, \$4000]

2016-20 Graduate Assistantship, Department of Communication Georgia State University, 2016-2020 [Tuition waiver, \$15,000]

2017 National Communication Association Doctoral Honors Seminar (July 2017). Bowling Green State University. Bowling Green, OH [\$200]

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2023 Rhetoric Society of America Summer Institute. Pennsylvania State University. May 2023

2022-2023 Presidential Leadership Institute, Oglethorpe University

2019 Rhetoric Society of America Project in Power, Place, and Publics: Rhetorical Cartographies of the UNR Campus Master Plan. Reno, NV. May 2019

Grant-writing Workshop. Georgia State University. February 2019

2017 National Communication Association Doctoral Honors Seminar. Bowling Green, OH. July 2017

MEMBERSHIPS

Association for the Study of African American Life and History, 2019
National Communication Association, 2017 – Present
National Council for Black Studies, 2010 – Present
Rhetoric Society of America, 2018 – Present

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2024 – Present Board of Directors, Flat Rock Archives

2022 Manuscript Reviewer, *Race and Social Problems* Journal
Reviewer, National Communication Association African American Studies Division
Reviewer, National Communication Association Rhetorical and Communication Theory Division

2021 Reviewer, Rhetoric Society of America Conference

2019 Reviewer, National Communication Association Critical Cultural Studies Division
Panelist, Department of Communications New Student Recruitment Panel

2018-2019 Treasurer, Communication Graduate Student Association at Georgia State University
2017 Debate Facilitator, Links Saturday Academy at the Center for Civil and Human Rights, Atlanta,
GA, March 10, 2017

UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Oglethorpe University

2024-2025 Chief Inclusive Excellence Officer
Program Coordinator, African American Studies Program

2023-2024 Special Advisor to the President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Director, Rich Urban Leadership Program
Program Coordinator, African American Studies Program
Member, First Generation Student Conference Planning Committee
Faculty Advisor, Collegiate 100 Student Group
Faculty Advisor, Beautiful Black Brains Student Group

2022-2023 Member, First Generation Student Conference planning team
Program Coordinator, African American Studies Program
Member, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Taskforce
Member, Sociology Search Committee
Member, CORE Program Strategic Initiative Oversight Committee
Faculty Advisor, DYNA.STTY Student Group
Faculty Advisor, Beautiful Black Brains Student Group
Workshop Lead, JEO Scholarship Weekend

2021-2022 Member, Academic Program Committee
Member, Instructional Technology Committee
Co-chair, African American Studies/Women's Gender Studies Search Committee
Member, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Taskforce
Member, Adult Degree Program Planning Committee
Faculty Advisor, DYNA.STTY Student Group

2021 Member, Accessibility Services Coordinator Search Committee
Member, Instructional Technology Librarian Search Committee
Member, Academic Program Manager Search Committee
Workshop Lead, JEO Scholarship Weekend

2020 Lecturer, Year of Suffrage Series

2020-2021 Member, DEI Taskforce Programming Sub-committee

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL FIELD EXPERIENCE

Online English as a Second Language Teacher, Education First, October 2018 - Present

Project Manager II, Project Management, Comcast Spotlight, April 2014 to August 2016

- Consultant to executive, senior, mid-level, and supervisory level management on process designs and team organization throughout the Southern Division.

- Maintained communications with 15 Functional Department directors and senior managers regarding portfolio level and change level projects in the Southern Division.
- Developed, maintained, and managed project plans for 7 portfolio level projects

Advertising Sales Specialist Supervisor, Comcast Spotlight, February 2013 to April 2014
Supervisor of a team of sales assistants managing advertising client portfolios and budgets.

Advertising Sales Specialist, Comcast Spotlight, June 2012 to February 2013
Managed advertising client portfolios and budgets.

Public Relations Campaign Design, Freelance, May 2011 to June 2012, Gainesville, FL

Graphic Designer, Atlantic Publishing Company, May 2010 to August 2010, Gainesville, FL

Reporting Intern, Gainesville Guardian, August 2008 to April 2009, Gainesville, FL
